

#### St. Johns County Presents Legislative Update

The County was one of the featured speakers at the St. Johns Chamber July 11th Legislative Update event.

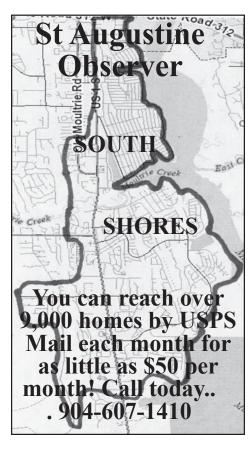
On July 11, county Commissioner Chair Krista Joseph was one of the featured speakers at the St. Johns Chamber of Commerce's annual Legislative Update event. Chair Joseph provided an update on the Fiscal Year 2025-26 State Budget, which includes \$1.5 million in funding for two important initiatives in St. Johns County: the development of the Florida Museum of Black History and improvements to the Interstate 95 and International Golf Parkway interchange. The Office of Public Affairs produced a video to capture a summary of the presentations.

With the end of the legislative session in Tallahassee, the St. Johns County Chamber of Commerce hosted the event at the Embassy Suites by Hilton of St. Augustine for members of the legislative delegation and local elected officials to discuss decisions that will directly impact St. Johns County.

Along with Chair Joseph, the speakers included: Rep. Sam Greco, Rep. Kim Kendall, Shorty Robbins for Rep. Judson Sapp, Sen. Tom Leek, St. Augustine Beach Mayor Dylan Rumrell, and St. Augustine Mayor Nancy Sikes-Kline.

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2465 US 1 South PMB 8 St. Augustine, FL 32086 Augustine OBSERVER



# **St Augustine South Reflections**

by Ruth Hope

It was another good Fourth of July in St Augustine South this year. Despite the damp morning, the evening was dry for the fireworks. As always, the City of St Augutine did us proud with their 20 minute fireworks display. I'm reminded that back in the days, locals used to go downtown to view the fireworks. Now we go to Shore Drive waterfront park and leave down town and its congestion to the tourists! The advantages are not confined to avoiding the traffic and getting home at a decent hour. We can also choose our

own background music or However, the view from the Fort is incomparable.

wishing for in the dry summer of 2024.

Storms with record numbers of lightning



Photo credit: totallystaugustine

As well as damp mornings, this year has brought some severe storms. Not the usual Florida10 minute downpours that we were

Photo by: Ingrid Griffin Jones

strikes, strong gusts of wind and heavy rain. St Augustine South has been treated kindly without the disruptive flooding and lightning-caused house fires that others in St Johns County have experienced. We did have an oak tree down on Hercules Rd, but that was on a sunny day. The new neighbors had only closed on their purchase in June. I'm sure that despite the power lines to the street coming down and their clean up costs, they were grateful the tree didn't hit their new home. Fortunately, Florida Power & Light was quickly on to repairing the downed power lines. Seeing the photographs of the tree, I was glad that we took down the spreading laurel oak in ourfront garden in April, after being advised of the need to by our arborist.

Other neighborhood news: SASIA organized the fourth community cleanup of the year in July. These were in part funded through a supply grant from www. volunteercleanup.org, and offered community service credits to high school seniors and college students who volunteered. Many of the drainage ditches

around St Augustine South get littered by passersby or fill with trash that blows off the trash truck on collection day. There has been deliberate fly tipping of a sofa, mattress and 6 propane gas cylinders. We have been fortunate in recent years that Verdego, the County's contractor for maintaining Shore Drive Waterfront park, has done a good job removing trash from the park. They don't go down the bank to the canal, though, and that area is prone to trash build up. Community effort to keep our neighborhood clear of trash is important for keeping a great environment for us all to enjoy, and for maintaining our property values. The first 4 cleanups bagged 1030 lbs. of trash; not included in the weight was the couch that the SJC Solid Waste removed promptly from the ditch on Shore Dr and Royal Rd. The last community cleanup of the year will be September 6, from 9 am to noon. The abandoned boats by

Douglas Crane boat ramp and along the Matanzas River by St Augustine South



Volunteers bagging up trash Photo by: SASIA

were again reported to the SJSO. Thanks are due to SAŠIA for organizing the cleanups and all the volunteers who donated their time to the cleanup and their trucks for hauling the trash.



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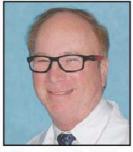
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# St. Augustine Observer

Published monthly for residents and visitors of St. Augustine Florida area 2465 US 1 South PMB #8 • St. Augustine, FL 32086

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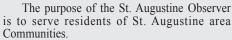
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#### Cliff Logsdon Publisher/Editor

(904) 607-1410

Email: clifflogsdon@att.net



First priority will be given to reporting news and activities of the residents of the St. Augustine local communities, and other news and events that directly affects the St. Augustine area. Second priority will be given to articles of general interest as space permits.

Information should be received by the 15th of the month in order to appear in the following month's issue. Articles or information may be sent to the St. Augustine Observer, 2465 UŠ1 South PMB #8, St. Augustine Florida 32086. Information may also be e-mailed to clifflogsdon@att.net.

All materials submitted to the Observer is subject to editing. Publishing of submitted letters and information is at the discretion of the publisher. Views and opinions expressed are those of the writer and do not express the viewpoint of the publisher or editorial staff of the Observer.

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#### St. Augustine Shores Community

**The Shores Service Corporation Shores Homeowners Association** (904) 794-2000

www.staugshores.org

#### **Shores Monthly Meetings**

- Shores Service Corporation's monthly meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month. Meetings are at 6 p.m. at the Riverview Club.
- Conquistador Condominium Board meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 5 p.m. at the Riverview Club. Please call to confirm that the meeting will be held.
- Fairview Condominium: Board meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every other month at 4 p.m. at the Fairview Condo club house.
- Greens Condominium: Board meetings vary. Owners please contact Sovereign and Jacobs at 904-461-5556.
- Casa Bella Condominium: Board Meetings will be bi-monthly on the 3rd Monday of the month, still held at 6 P.M. Meeting location will still be posted on the bulletin board 48 hours prior to each meeting. Contact: Community Association Manager – Kandice Williams – 904-461-9708 Ext. 205 – kwilliams@maymgt.com or Community Association Assistant - Vicki Collins - 904-461-9708 Ext. 231 - vcollins@maymgt.com.

#### St. Augustine South Community

St. Augustine South Improvement Assoc. impact exercise class with music from 709 Royal Rd. St Augustine, 32086 email: info@staugsouth.com www.staugsouth.com (904) 615-6916

#### 2025 SASIA Board Members

President: Jerri Sue Dawson 1st VP: David Rieger 2nd VP: Oonna Heuck Secretary: Open Treasurer: Margo Geer Board:

Andre D'Elena Justin Miller Vicki Cofone Linda Stegall

**Community Meetings** 

Community meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the SASIA clubhouse. There are no meetings in August. We look forward to seeing everyone at the September 17th meeting.

#### Classes at the SASIA Clubhouse

Weekly classes at the clubhouse are open to the public, you do not need to be a resident in St. Augustine South to participate

Square Dancing - Mondays 7:00-9:00 p.m. Come and join the fun and dance with others. Contact caller, Mike Akers, with any questions: michael akers@bellsouth.net or (904) 466-8663

**Movin' with Melinda** – Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30-9:30 a.m. Move and groove in a low to medium the past and present. A \$5.00 donation is requested. Contact Melinda at slidermomma@yahoo.com.

REFIT and Rev+Flow with Onika -Tuesdays and Thursdays 6:00-7:00p.m. REFIT combines powerful moves and music to create an exciting, fun workout for all ages. Rev+Flow is a one-of-akind workout that increases strength, builds muscle and increases mobility. Classes will begin August 19th.

Beginning Line Dancing Wednesdays 1:00-2:30 p.m. Have fun as you boot, scoot, and boogie while learning to dance. Join Dianne and Ingrid for a beginning level line dance class. A \$5.00 donation is requested.

Intermediate/Advanced Line Dancing Wednesdays 3:00-5:00 p.m. Join Jinny for an intermediate/advanced level line dance class. A \$5.00 donation is requested. Class will begin on August 13th.

Residents interested in joining SASIA may do so at www.staugsouth.

#### **Print Distribution Locations**

- YMCA
- Main Library
- Southeast Library
- Shores Riverview Club
- Goin Postal
- St. Johns County Pier Park
- Shores Golf Course

# **Community Classifieds**

The Observer offers free community classified listings for USPS selected addresses in Southern St. Johns County and paid subscriptions. Classified ads will not be printed without a name, address and phone number included with the request. 5 items or less should be sent. Free ads are not for Business or Personal Service ads. Placement is not Guaranteed

Business, Service, seeking work, etc. may be placed in the classified section: (1-4 lines) \$5, (5-9 lines) \$10, (10-14 lines) \$15, (15-19 lines) \$20. Ad \$10 for single line border. Ads should be paid in advance before placed. Senting and payment, if required, to Observer, 2465 US1 South PMB#8, St. Augustine, 32086 or email your ad to clifflogsdon@att.net. Deadline is the 15th of every month for the next monthly issue.

FOR SALE: HARVARD CLASSICS rare find: 1909 Original Edition, set 488 of 1000 printed, 50 volumes in oak bookcase. \$1000.00 cash, firm. Delivery up to 5 miles. Call (904)797-2247

**FOR SALE**: Universal Cross Bar for SUVs or car with Side Rails allows you to put Cargo/Luggage on top of your auto. Keeps Cargo from resting on your top of your roof. Specs: Malone Brand Fits 3/4" -1 3/4" Side Rails. Sliding Locking Caps with Key for security. Max Roof Width 50". Measure width from one side rail to other side. Never used and still in the Box because I bought new car. Please leave VM or Text \$30 Call 904-472-4465.

FOR SALE: Spinlife jazzy 600es power wheelchair never used \$2000.00 with upgraded seat cushion. Call 904-501-8280

FOR SALE: 1 set of 42024-2025 Hyundai Sonata Carpet Floor Mats for your brand new Sonata. Fits N-LINE and HYBRID. Mats are NEW and BLACK. Cash Only \$100.00 Please call John 904-501-0187.

FOR SALE: Hampton Bay never been used, faux concrete, Also: One "Knee Rover" like new condition, great quality scooter, used once \$50.00. Call Suzy 949 300-8024.

**FOR SALE:** 3 tier chrome utility kitchen cart. Never used. Chrome hooks for cups and small wire chrome baskets for silverware attached. 36" w x 32" h x 10" d. Great for entertaining or small kitchens. \$35.00 Call 863-231-1671

FOR SALE: 2012 Club Car Golf Cart, slow moving vehicle road ready. Will need batteries soon and minor repair of brake and signal lights. Head lights are fine. Runs well and in very good condition. \$2000 or best offer. Call 904 347-3395.

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FOR SALE: 2 Pelican 10 ft. sit in Kayaks. 2 lifejackets. 2 paddles, 1 pull-cart, 4 roof rail folding carriers. \$350.00 for all. Call 904-599-1510.

**FOR SALE:** (1) Broyhill living room set. 84"sofa, wing chair and 3 tables. Excellent condition \$500. (2) 35 VCR tapes. All for \$15. (3) 1992 Mercury Grand Marquis LS, 90% restored. Needs a/c work, paint and a seat motor. \$10,800. Call 904-687-9149.

FOR SALE: (1) BIRD CAGE like new. 16.5" x 21"x30"H, brown pitched roof style, \$45 bargain. SWEEPER, Black & Decker rechargeable, \$15. (2) TAP SHOES, women's Bloch TechnoTap black leather, size 7.5 worn twice like new, \$35 deal. BROOKS BROS. classic fit size 12 women's pink shirt. Never worn! Still in original packaging! \$49. (3) RALPH LAUREN brown grained leather women's backpack style bag. Lightly used, vintage, \$79. Inquire about women's clothing L, XL and other vintage bags. Call leave voicemail or text 904-794-2594.

NOTICE: 3 wandering cats in my neighborhood in the Shores. Please call if interested in adopting. 904-797-3682.

**WANTED:** I buy old records and some vintage stereo equipment. I am not a reseller. I only use for my own enjoyment. If you're looking for a good home for your records, please call John at 904-325-9802.

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If interested contact: Cliff Logsdon

St. Augustine Obsever 904-607-1410



# **Shores Communications Corner**

**News & Information from the** St. Augustine Shores Service Corp.

#### **Shores President's Update**

Dear Shores Residents,

With summer hitting its stride, we want to share a few important updates, reminders, and a renewed commitment to what makes The Shores a great place to live—strong leadership, shared responsibility, and a well-maintained community we can all be proud of.

Leadership & Operations

As you know our office is going through some changes, with new staff stepping into key roles. They've taken on the complex day-to-day responsibilities that keep things running smoothly. Their focus and professionalism are greatly appreciated, and new procedures are being put in place to help us operate efficiently.

Financial Update
With the 2024–2025 fiscal year officially closed as of June 30; our financial records are now being finalized and prepared for an independent audit. As always, the completed report will be shared with residents. We stand by full transparency and responsible governance.

Summer growth is in full swing, which means it's time to stay on top of yard care. Lawns should be mowed regularly, shrubs trimmed, weeds pulled, and landscaping kept neat. Please pressure wash driveways and other exterior surfaces if needed. These small tasks go a long way toward keeping property values strong and the neighborhood looking its best. Management will be conducting property inspections, and we appreciate your cooperation.

Community Amenities

Our pool, recreation courts, and shared spaces are seeing a lot of use right now—and that's great. These areas are here for everyone to enjoy. Just a few reminders:

- Follow all posted rules
- Children under 14 years of age must be supervised by adults
- Clean up after yourself
- Keep noise to a reasonable level

Misuse or disruptive behavior won't be ignored. We'll handle it respectfully but directly, as outlined in our governing documents. These spaces are meant to be safe, clean, and enjoyable for all.

Traffic & Safety

We've received ongoing reports of speeding and other traffic violations. This is a serious issue, especially with kids, seniors, and families out walking or biking. Please obey all posted speed limits and stop signs. If you see reckless driving, report it directly to law enforcement.

A Stronger Community

The Shores isn't just a neighborhood—it's a community of people who take pride in where they live. As the temperatures climb, let's use this time to reinforce what makes our community stand out: mutual respect, shared ownership, and a commitment to keeping things safe, clean, and welcoming.

Thanks for doing your part. Let's keep pushing forward. Sincerely,

Mike Nutile

Board President, St. Augustine Shores Service Corporation

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#### **Shores Riverview Club Member Activities**

**AUGUST 2025 ACTIVITIES - FOOD TRUCK SCHEDULE** 

<b>August 2025</b>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri 1	Sat 2
					ZUMBA 10:00-11:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	
3	4 ZUMBA 3:30-4:30 PM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	5 WATER AEROBICS 10:00-11:00 AM BARRE 5:30- 6:30 PM	6 AQUA ZUMBA 10:00-11:00 AM FOOD TRUCK NO PITY PARTY 4:00-7:00 PM	7 WATER AEROBICS 10:00-11:00 AM KICKBOXING 9:00-10:00 AM SCRABBLE 12:00-3:00PM	8 ZUMBA 10:00-11:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	9
10	11 ZUMBA 3:30-4:30 PM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	12 WATER AEROBICS 10:00-11:00 AM BARRE 5:30- 6:30 PM	13 AQUA ZUMBA 10:00-11:00 AM FOOD TRUCK CREPE CRAZY 4:00-7:00 PM	14 WATER AEROBICS 10:00-11:00 AM KICKBOXING 9:00-10:00 AM SCRABBLE 12:00-3:00PM	15 ZUMBA 10:00-11:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	16
17	18 ZUMBA 3:30-4:30 PM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	19 WATER AEROBICS 10:00-11:00 AM BARRE 5:30- 6:30 PM	20 AQUA ZUMBA 10:00-11:00 AM FOOD TRUCK WINGIN IT 4:00-7:00 PM	21 WATER AEROBICS 10:00-11:00 AM KICKBOXING 9:00-10:00 AM SCRABBLE 12:00-3:00PM	22 ZUMBA 10:00-11:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	23
24	25 ZUMBA 3:30-4:30 PM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	26 WATER AEROBICS 10:00-11:00 AM BARRE 5:30- 6:30 PM	27 AQUA ZUMBA 10:00-11:00 AM FOOD TRUCK UNCLE KC'S HOT DOGS 4:00-7:00 PM	28 WATER AEROBICS 10:00-11:00 AM KICKBOXING 9:00-10:00 AM SCRABBLE 12:00-3:00PM	29 ZUMBA 10:00-11:00 AM REFLECTIONS BALLROOM	30



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# **SASIA** News and Calendar of Events August 2025

All events are held in the SASIA Clubhouse at 709 Royal Road. If you wish to contact SASIA please email info@staugsouth.com.

Check out SASIA's Facebook page www.facebook.com/staugsouth, Nextdoor page (search for St. Augustine South Improvement Association), and Instagram page www.instagram.com/saintaugsouth/. Like and follow us so you can see what is happening at the SASIA clubhouse each week.

Community Meetings
Community meetings are normally held the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm at the SASIA clubhouse. There are no meetings in July and August. We look forward to seeing everyone at the September 17th meeting.

**Food Truck Nights** 

Food Truck Nights are the second Friday of each month from 5:00-7:00 our walks to state and county parks. p.m. at the Clubhouse, (709 Royal Road, 32086)

Friday, August 8th, Heart and Soul Food Friday, September 12th, El Hombre Tacos Friday, October 10th, Wingin' It

Friday, November 14th, Saucey Pig

No Food Truck in December

Friday, January 9th, 2026 Uptown Artisan Pizza

Food Truck events are subject to change in the event of inclement weather. Check our social media for updates.

SASIA Volunteer Community Cleanup

Saturday, September 6, 2025, 9:00am-12:00pm Thank you to all the volunteers who made the July 5th SASIA Community Cleanup a big success. The turnout was wonderful considering it was the day after July 4th. We collected wood, a gas tank, fence posts, and nine bags of garbage. A total of 267 pounds. Many hands make for light work, and we are grateful to have supportive neighbors! Many thanks to Allison Youngblood, Cathi Rivera, Justin Miller, Lyn Greco, Mike Cofone - and Bruce Milliken for the use of his truck to haul the trash. Plus, a big thank you to Vicki Cofone, SASIA BOD member and organizer of the event.

Another cleanup is scheduled for Saturday, September 6th at 9:00am 12:00pm. We will meet at 9:00am at the clubhouse picnic tables, 709 Royal Road, 32086. All ages are welcome! This is a terrific opportunity for middle or high school students looking for community service hours.

December Arts & Crafts Fair.

Sign up online: https://volunteersignup.org/CMHCF December Arts & Crafts Fair. Registration is open for vendors who are interested in participating in the SASIA Arts & Crafts fair on Saturday, December 6, 2025. The fair is held at the SASIA Clubhouse from 10am-2pm. https:// staugsouth.com/vendor-information

**Upcoming Events 2025** Friday, August 8th, Heart and Soul Food

Friday, September 12th, El Hombre Taco Friday, October 10th, Wingin' It Saturday, October 25th - Fall Festival

Friday, November 14, Saucey Pig

Saturday, December 6th – Arts & Crafts Festival Saturday, December 13th – Santa at the Clubhouse

Dates are subject to change.

# HOUSEHOLD www.CodyPestControl.com 386-437-3479

#### The Wildflower Meadow Group

by Marlene Land

The Wildflower Meadow group meets the first Saturday of each month at about 8:30 a.m. by the Riverview Club House and we usually work for a couple of hours. Our goal is to preserve the wildflower meadow, learn about native plants that grow in this area, and enjoy the outside. We're an informal group without officers or dues and hope you will join us. We occasionally visit state and county parks and welcome newcomers.

Call Cindy at 904-797-3931 or Marlene at 305-968-0447 for more information, If we can't answer leave a message and we'll call you back. Call for more information about the meadow and



## Living with Cancer Support Group

The Living with Cancer support group has moved to Cancer Specialists of North Florida. 121 Whitehall Drive, St. Augustine 32086 on the third Wednesday of every month at 11:00 am. We still have the ability to ZOOM in if needed. This is an informal gathering for adults with any type of cancer and their caregivers.

It is open to all affected by cancer. This group will provide the opportunity to meet others in similar situations, share your stories, provide practical suggestions and offer support to each other. If you prefer to participate virtually via Zoom, please call 904-819-4793 for further instructions.

#### **Temple Bet Yam** Open House & Bagel Brunch August 17th

Temple Bet Yam, a Reform Jewish congregation in Saint Augustine, is holding an open house and bagel brunch on Sunday, August 17 from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Come learn about the many programs we have such as Parent and Me, Religious School, Lifelong Learning, social activities, and more. We are located at 2055 Wildwood Drive. Please call us at 904-819-1875 to register. We look forward to meeting you.

#### Families Anonymous Support Group

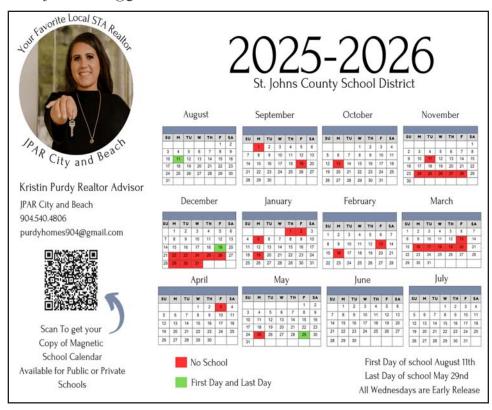
At your wits end? Tired of lies? Is someone you love destroying your family harmony? Families Anonymous is a free weekly meeting for mothers of addicted loved ones. We have walked your path and are here for you.

We meet Thursdays from 9-10 a.m. at Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship, 2487 A1A S. Street, St. Augustine (Use red back door entrance). For more information to restore peace and harmony, contact 843-367-1475.

# St. Augustine Multiple Sclerosis Support Group

The National MS Society maintains a network of affiliated groups to provide opportunities for people living with MS to connect with others in their community. Every group is unique and welcoming — contact the group leader for more information. Join Us! We are recognized by the National MS Society and the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation.

We meet every 4th Tuesday at 1:00 pm at Anastasia Library, 124 Sea Grove Main Street, St. Augustine Beach, FL 32080. For information or to RSVP, contact: Anita Clark johnita0013@gmail.com 305- 898-1432.





#### **Sheriff's Update**

By St. Johns County Sheriff Robert A. Hardwick

#### **Back to School**

August is back to school month, and we will begin to experience the effects of our roadways and sidewalks being flooded with St. Johns County students. At the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, the safety of children remains our highest priority. Our Deputy Sheriffs, once again, spent the summer training to ensure they feel prepared for worst case scenario in the event of an incident at one of our schools, and spent time instructing many new drivers through our Teen Driving Experience.

We continue to see a troubling trend involving E-Bike crashes, many of which have resulted in serious injuries to children. While we are actively working on legislation to help address this issue, we urge families to take proactive steps now to promote safe E-Bike practices. Please take time to talk with your children about the following safety guidelines:

- Obey traffic signals, stop signs, and speed limits
- Slow down for pedestrians
- Wear brightly colored or reflective clothing to stay visible
- Ride in the same direction as traffic
- Use front and rear bike lights at all times
- Riders under 16 are required by law to wear a properly fitted and fastened helmet — and we strongly
- recommend all riders wear one, regardless of age

On behalf of the men and women of the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, we thank you for your partnership and wish everyone a safe, successful, and enriching school year ahead. Please reach out to me if I can be of assistance. You can email me at sheriff@sjso.org. For the most up to date information, find us on social media. @teamsjso on Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter).

## St Augustine Genealogical Society

The St Augustine Genealogical Society holds it's monthly meeting the 2nd Saturday of each month in the Southeast Branch of the St Johns County Library. The SE Library Branch is located at 6670 US Hwy 1 South. Check in for our meetings is 12:45 and meeting starts at 1:00 PM

Our Genealogical Society is open to all. We encourage visitors, as well as current and former members to join us. Refreshments will be served, and feel free to bring your favorite. For information visit webite StAugGenSoc.org.

#### Friends of the St. Augustine Amphitheatre Summer Art and Music Camp Presentation

The Friends of the St. Augustine Amphitheater will be showcasing our annual Summer Art and Music Camp's final presentation on August 1 at 12:00 noon at the Amphitheater. Everyone is invited to attend these free and fun performances where elementary school age students will present what they have learned in only one week of camp attendance.

In particular, parents and grandparents of St. Johns County elementary students in both public and private schools are encouraged to come preview the camp experience for possible participation next summer.

For further information please contact Molly Grossholz, president of the Friends of St. Augustime Ap, at mollyschoice@yahoo.com.

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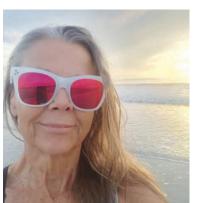
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August starts off with a true First Friday, as it happens on August 1st and features Artist of the Month, Tracy DeCamp. Here's some history of Tracy in her own words.....

"Growing up in Baltimore Maryland, my father had a story about me that would illustrate how long I have been creating art. He told me that when I was five, we were walking in the woods and I picked up a special piece of driftwood to bring home. Later, I transformed the driftwood into a snake with my crayons. That was over 50 some years ago.

The medium that I enjoy working in the most is pencil. Although I do love to paint. In the past I have experimented using exotic handmade papers to create a collage mixed media effect on large canvases. My inspiration came from the flowers I grew in my own gardens. After studying fashion illustration and design at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond Virginia, I freelanced by doing fashion drawings for shops and boutique's advertisements in the local newspapers.



My favorite subject to draw would have to be animals, particularly cats and owls. I have done many pet portrait commissions. But in the distant past I was known for my wildlife paintings and extremely detailed color pencil/water color mixed media drawings of alligators, crocodiles, and tropical birds. I took my inspiration from nature as I was living in Tampa Florida at this time.

After many years working as an after school art teacher, I decided to write a children's book. The first book was a collaboration on a teen book called #NoBullying. It was a graphic novel dealing with the issue of cyber bullying. Then came the children's book called Luna's Beach

Day about a shih tzu dog and her dog friends having a day at the beach. The third book was an adult coloring book called Angels and Prayers Coloring Book.

"In the past I participated in gallery shows, one person shows, festivals, town art walks, juried art shows for university students, won awards, and made a limited edition print. My art is in private collections around the country including the Natural History Museum in Marathon Florida. Moving into the future with my art I hope to explore nature up close as much as possible and draw it".

explore nature up close as much as possible and draw it".

The Art Studio is located at 370 A1A Beach Blvd. in the St. John's County Pier Park and is open 7 days a week from 12pm to 5pm. We are a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit organization that brings Art and Culture to the community and offers classes, special events, exhibitions and rental space. For more information please visit www. beachartstudio.org, Facebook or call 904-295-4428.







## **Veterans Day Photography Contest** Kicks Off August 1st

St. Augustine VFW Post 2391 is sponsoring the First Annual Veterans Day Photography Contest and the submission dates are August 1 through September 30. Co-sponsored by the St. Johns Cultural Council with assistance from the St. Augustine Camera Club, the theme and subject for the images is the "veteran and the American flag." Submit an image that tells that story.



The contest is free and open to the public, and awards will be announced on November 11, 2025 (Veterans Day). Award winning images will display as a part of the Culture Council's "Art in Public Places" on the walls in the County Social Services Building at 200 San Sabastian View. Winning photographers will receive a book of the entered photographs.

photographer may submit up to three images and they must have been taken by the person submitting. The format should be JPG and they may be post-edited. AI may be used for editing only; the base image must have been photographed

by the submitter. All submissions should be attached to an email (fotowurks@aol. com) and should have the title of the image and the name of the photographer in the email (not on the image).

Additional information is available from Rick McAllister at fotowurks@aol.com or 904-501-7777 as well as FaceBook site Veterans Day Photography Contest 2025.

#### Diaries of a Shores Grand-Dad

by Dirk Schroeder

Sometimes you have those very memorable real estate experiences when your customers do something out of the ordinary. When you've been in the business for 40 years then you probably have a ton of stories.

I think this one happened in the early 90's. I was taking out a buyer along with his friend, a professional engineer, to look at a church site on Lewis Speedway. They were both of the same religious persuasion. We started out at our US 1 South Century 21 office. I was driving. The three of us were making small talk when we were approaching the red light at US 1 and King Street. Oscar unexpectedly asked me this; "Dirk, do you know what happens to you when you die?" Suspecting that there would be a potential religious conversion attempt, I had to see what I could do to tactfully shut it down so my reply was, " I am looking forward to that day so that I can finally know the answer to the mystery of life?" I could tell his brain was chewing on that answer, while thinking of his next move

It took him some time (at SR 16 and U S 1) to come up with his next question whereby I was able to put a stealthy end to the conversion attempts. Ultimately, they did not end up buying any church site from me and their facility is still in the same place as it was in the 90's. The customer was memorable for me because few or your customers subtly try to convert you to their religion. It still begs the question though, what happens when you die?

First, don't be expecting to read the answer in the St. Augustine Observer. Second, if you think you know the answer, think again. It is called "the mystery of life" for a reason. Now, if you're an atheist, your options will play out exactly the way you asked expected but, you never know, you might still get lucky. If you believe in God, here's what another customer of mine (Sam) once told me about God, "God is too big to fit into one religion." That was another memorable

Oscar passed away many, many years ago and the mystery is solved for him. He was a good man so I believe he's going to get sorted out favorably. Sam is still with us here in St. Augustine and I believe that grace will shine the light on him one day. That's the hope. That is my hope for both of them, regardless of

religion. Thank you for being part of my journey.
Certainly, the mystery of life begins at our conception and the journey to understanding it all will unfold and come to us all eventually. Make your journey worthwhile and I hope you can help others - to make their journey more enjoyable and meaningful. The last thing that we would want for anyone is for people to feel like their journey was irrelevant, meaningless, worthless. Do your part as a human being - be human to those you come into contact with on your journey. On that note, I wish everyone, as always, A Sunshine State of Mind.

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# BIG NEWS FOR CONDO OWNERS - CONDO 4.0 started July 1st

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There are many other changes for Condominium that you document when the Buyer their **Associations** Companies but the change that affects Buyers and required by law. Seller of condos is effective as of July 1st, 2025 – the 7-Day Rescission Period.

Sellers need to provide quite a bit of documentation THEY NEED to decide if they want to to Buyers and the new rules put the responsibility on move forward and review them within Associations to make nearly all of that information on the time allowed. their respective websites.

What's the smart move for Condo Sellers? Make call Dirk @ 904-540-2360

The most significant change is the change in the "RIGHT" the Home Inspection Period the same as the Condo

the default 15 days). Also, make sure Managers/Management has received their documentation as

What are Buyers to do? Make sure they get ALL OF THE DOCUMENTS

For help in Buying or Selling condos,





**Dirk Schroeder** Direct: 904-540-2360 2820 US 1 S. St. Augustine FL 32086



#### 10 Things Medicare Doesn't Cover Part 1

Carol Bogart, Palencia Resident 904-648-6488 Carol@AskCarolB.com

You'll need to plan to pay for some common medical expenses. Medicare covers most health care needs for Medicare-eligible participants, from hospital care and doctor visits to lab tests and surgery. But some necessities — and desires — aren't part of the program. Here's how you might pay for them.

1. Dental work is rarely covered

Original Medicare covers some dental-related expenses in very specific situations.

In 2023, dental exams and necessary treatments before organ transplant surgery were added.

In 2024, Medicare started covering a dental exam as part of a comprehensive workup at the same time as Medicare-covered treatments for head and neck cancer. But it doesn't cover routine dental care, such as checkups, or big-ticket items,

including dentures and root canals.

Solution: Some Medicare Advantage plans offer dental coverage. They focus on preventive services, with some covering a portion of the cost of more extensive care, up to an annual limit. If you opt for original Medicare, consider buying an individual dental insurance plan or a dental discount plan. Some Medigap insurers allow you to add coverage or membership in a dental discount program for an extra premium.

2. Routine eye exams and glasses? No. Cataracts? Yes

While original Medicare covers ophthalmologic expenses such as cataract surgery, it doesn't pay for routine eye exams, glasses or contact lenses. Some private Medicare Advantage plans cover routine vision care and glasses.

Solution: For some people, buying a vision insurance policy for a few hundred dollars a year to defray the cost of glasses or contact lenses makes sense. Even though standard Medigap plans, the supplemental insurance available from private insurers to augment original Medicare coverage, don't cover vision, some companies let you buy extra benefits that cover some in-network vision exams and a pair of glasses or contacts each year, up to an annual limit.

3. Hearing loss? You'll pay for hearing aids yourself
Medicare covers ear-related medical conditions, but original Medicare and

Medigap plans don't pay for routine hearing tests or hearing aids.

Solution: If you are in a Medicare Advantage plan, check your policy to see if it covers hearing-related needs. If it doesn't, or if you have original Medicare, consider buying insurance or a membership in a discount plan that helps cover the cost of

#### St. Augustine Travel Club - Peter Dytrych

The St. Augustine Travel Club, that hosts at the Southeast Branch Public Library, will take a summer recess for the months of July and August, resuming in September. Check local papers or the library website for future announcements and emails will be sent to all attendees as well. Have a fun and safe summer! Peter and Linda Dytrych.

St. Augustine Travel Club Cruise -

The St. Augustine Travel Club will again be sailing the seas on Saturday, December 6 - 13, 2025 on the beautiful Italian ship MSC GRANDIOSA out of Port Canaveral to the Caribbean and Bahamas, to the ports of Ocean Cay (MSC private island and Marine Reserve in the Bahamas), Nassau and Puerto Plata (Dominican Republic) for a 7-day cruise. Prices start from \$866.60 per person, double occupancy, for



inside cabin, inclusive of all port fees and taxes. Balconies and Oceanviews are also available at additional cost. Book now with a \$199 p.p. deposit and receive \$50 per stateroom On Board Credit, Free Beverage Package, Wi-Fi and more. Call Peter, St. Augustine Travel Club at (904) 797-3736.

such hearing devices.

Also, over-the-counter hearing aids are now available for people with mild to moderate hearing loss.

4. Most chiropractors' services won't be covered

Original Medicare pays for just one chiropractic service: manual manipulation of the spine to correct a vertebral subluxation, which is a partial dislocation of a spinal vertebra from its normal position. No other services or tests that a chiropractor orders are covered, including X-rays.

Solution: Some Medicare Advantage plans will cover chiropractic services, so check with your plan. Some chiropractors offer payment plans to help you pay for this care.

5. Bankroll elective cosmetic surgery yourself

Medicare doesn't generally cover elective cosmetic surgery, such as facelifts or tummy tucks. It will cover plastic surgery after an accidental injury or if needed after another treatment, such as breast reconstruction following a mastectomy. You may need prior authorization before Medicare will cover some procedures to show that it is medically necessary rather than for cosmetic purposes.

Solution: If you face these costs, you also may want to set up a separate savings program for them.

Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions. Information taken from an AARP article by Dena Bunis updated 10-8-24. Carol@AskCarolB.com Text: 714-930-7165 Direct: 904-648-6488 www.AskCarolB.com FL License #: W756153

#### Medicare

If you are turning 65 and to understand Medicare as well as review available plans, appointments are free and there is no obligation to enroll.





#### **Health Insurance**

If you are in need of health insurance, whether shortterm or through the Marketplace, I am happy to help you find a plan that fits your needs.

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#### St. Augustine Orchid Society

Janis Croft

#### **Mounting Orchids Workshop August 5th**



This month we are hosting a mounting workshop, where some of the St. Augustine Orchid Society members will be available to assist you in selecting a plant that will work well on a mount of your choice. We'll have a variety of different genera to choose from as well as different materials to mount them on. You'll go home with a new plant or two, for a \$10 donation.

Plants will be available on the sales and raffle tables. The Society welcomes all to our monthly meetings. No charge.

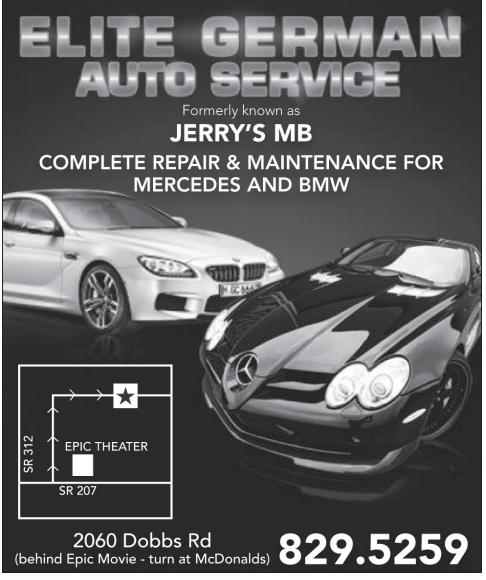
When: August 5, 6:30 to 9 pm, Where: Memorial Lutheran Church

Drive around to the back entrance, 3375 US 1 South, St. Aug 32086 https://www.staugorchidsociety.org

# St. Augustine Beach Democratic Club

The SAB Democratic Club's next meeting is on Tuesday August 5, 2025 at 5:30 pm at the Anastasia Island Branch Library, 124 Sea Grove Main Street, St Augustine Beach. Our speakers on August 5 will be Ramon Perez and Sadie Holzmeyer from the Digital Democracy Project. They will be speaking about the issue of "open primaries" and will explain what open primaries are and some of the arguments for and against the idea. They will also be introducing us to the Digital Democracy Project, a mobile voting application which allows voters to tell legislators how to vote. The St Augustine Beach Democratic Club's focus is on current issues affecting those living in the St Augustine Beach area.

These meetings provide an excellent opportunity to hear from a variety of speakers, get to know elected representatives, mingle with Democratic candidates and socialize with our like minded neighbors. The Club meets at the Anastasia Island Branch Library, 124 Sea Grove Main Street, 5:30 pm on the first Tuesday of the month. There is plenty of parking available. For additional information, please contact info@sabdems.org.



# Friends of Anastasia Island Branch Library (FAIBL) August Book Sale

by Mollie Meiklel

Nothing says summer like a good beach read! Find your next favorite book or author at the Friends of Anastasia Island Branch Library (FAIBL) August Book Sale.

The August Book Sale will be held Friday, August 22 and Saturday, August 23 at the Anastasia Island Branch Library. FAIBL members shop early on Friday, from 9am to 10am. The book sale is open to the general public Fri, 8/22 from 10am to 5pm and Sat, 8/23 from 10am to 4:30pm.

Save the date - Sunday, Sept 21 - and start making plans for our first FAIBL bowling fundraiser to be held at Anastasia Lane. Details to come.

To sign up for our newsletter and email alerts, or to learn more about Friends of Anastasia Island Branch Library, please email us at anastasiaislandfaibl@gmail.com.

#### **Interested in the Civil War?**

Please join our Civil War Discussion Group. Our next presentation will be Tuesday, AUGUST 5, 2025 at 1pm, at the Anastasia Branch library in Sea Grove.

The August July presentation will be with Len Whiteside titled "Financing the Civil War". It will examine how the North and the South raised revenue to fight the war and how the war transformed the financial structure of the U. S.



For questions or comments, please contact Len Whiteside at armyfam831@gmail.com

# AGLOW International - St. Augustine Lighthouse Saturday, August 16, 2025 10:00 am to Noon

The AGLOW St. Augustine Lighthouse invites Christians and seekers to the Saturday, August 16, 2025 meeting. AGLOW is a global Kingdom movement of women and men with a unified purpose: to see God's will done on earth as it is in Heaven. If you are seeking inspiration or healing prayer, join us.

AGENDA: Continental breakfast 10-10:30 am followed by the speaker and prayer 10:30-Noon.

LOCATION: Spirit Alive Church, 4475 US Hwy 1 South, Ste 506, St. Augustine, FL 32086 (Plaza South office complex, bear left in the parking lot). CONTACT: Jama Williams 904-806-0988. FREE.







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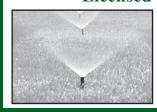




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